

## DARIEN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2012

**Present:** Olive Hauser, Inta Adams, Ali Ramsteck, Debra Hertz, Polly Lowman, Nancy Herling, Melisse Reardon

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented.

### **Agenda Items Covered:**

**1. Allen O'Neill Project:**

Inta and Ali have been working closely with the Housing Authority to assist Social Services clients with relocation issues. The Department is optimistic that the remaining residents will make the move with fewer issues.

**2. New Executive Director of the Community Fund:**

Jenny Streeter was named new Executive Director of The Community Fund. The Social Services Commission is very pleased with this appointment.

**3. Update on Project Lifesaver:**

Nancy spoke with the Director of Maplewood (the new assisted living facility being constructed at the corner of Post Road and Brookside) to see if they would be interested in using Project Lifesaver. The Director suggested a program/profile that can be downloaded from the Alzheimer's website as an alternative option. Nancy will download the form to see if this could be used as an interim option to be utilized for tracking at-risk residents. Given that the cost of Project Lifesaver is a deterrent, a suggestion was made that a request could be made for The Technology Fund to provide some start-up funding.

**4. Polly's Visit to Post 53:**

Polly provided a training session to Post members on strategies for dealing with people with special needs. After showing a First Responders training video, Polly and another parent answered questions. Feedback was positive and Polly is hoping to coordinate this training with the Police and Fire Departments.

**5. Charter Change Review:**

Olive reviewed the proposed changes to the Charter and the Commission members voted as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Vote:** Change the Charter to reflect removal of term limits

Debra Hertz-Abstained, Polly Lowman-Yes, Nancy Herling-Yes, Melisse Reardon-Yes

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vote:** Does the Commission accept and endorse changes made to the Charter including:

- removing term limits;
- language relating to the operating budget and receipt of gifts and donations;
- name change to Human Services;
- language of powers and duties of Human Services;
- procedure for calling Special Meetings.

Debra Hertz-Yes, Polly Lowman-Yes, Nancy Herling-Yes,  
Melisse Reardon-Yes

**6. Commission on Aging Report:**

Olive reported that Jennifer Geddes, Mary McCarthy and the Commission continue to work to raise income levels for seniors and veterans who apply for tax abatement/ tax credits.

**7. Other Business:**

Committee members should email cell phone numbers to Olive.

Debra asked committee members to consider recommending potential candidates for position of Executive Director of the DCA.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melisse Reardon